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THE PRC AND THE MISSILE TECH REGIME

[Q. What is] the Missile Technology Control Regime?

[A. -- THE REGIME,] CREATED IN APRIL 1987, IS A SET OF IDENTICAL STATEMENTS OF POLICY BY THE U.S. AND OUR SIX ECONOMIC SUMMIT PARTNERS. IT IS NOT A TREATY, BUT THE ADHERING STATES HAVE MADE A POLICY COMMITMENT (OUTSIDE THEIR INTERNATIONAL TREATY OBLIGATIONS) NOT TO EXPORT BALLISTIC OR CRUISE MISSILE SYSTEMS CAPABLE OF DELIVERING MORE THAN A 500 KG PAYLOAD TO A RANGE OF MORE THAN 300 KM.

[Q. Why did the Regime not prevent this transfer from China to Saudi Arabia?

[A. -- CHINA IS NOT A SUBSCRIBER TO THE GUIDELINES OF THE MTCR, WHICH WOULD HAVE PROHIBITED THIS TRANSFER.]